

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 38-44 were allowed. Claim 41 has been amended such that "and" is changed to "or". New claims 53-60 have been added to encompass previous claims that were withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. Claims 53-60 are method claims that are dependent upon allowed claim 1, i.e. the method claims require the practice of the allowed assay claim. None of the newly added claims relate to "treating" a subject. Support may be found in the specification generally and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, entry of the claims as amended before issuance of the application is respectfully requested.

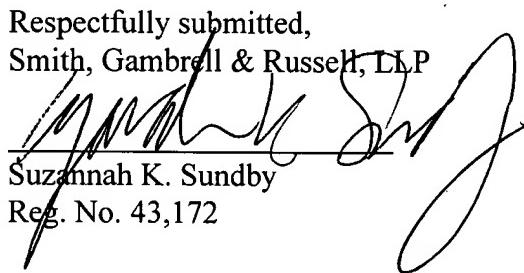
In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on 13 January 2004, the Examiner stated that she would allow the entry of the new claims as amended herein so long as the new claims depend on the allowed claims are not directed to "treating" subjects. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's consideration and assistance in the prosecution of this case.

CONCLUSION

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. **210380**, referencing Attorney Docket No. **034047.003** (formerly P66820US1) (00-23).

Respectfully submitted,
Smith, Gambrall & Russell, LLP

Suzannah K. Sundby
Reg. No. 43,172



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1850 M Street, NW #800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 263-4332